

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/879,589

Examiner

Albert Wang

Applicant(s)

HANNA, STEPHEN DALE

Art Unit

2115

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communications filed June 12, September 17, and October 9, 2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 October 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

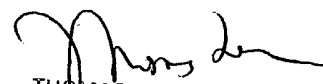
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 09172001
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


THOMAS LEE

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-12 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Barrett et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,935,262, teaches querying and saving error events from a printer after a one-minute timeout (Fig. 28A; Col. 34, lines 5-23).

Wibecan, U.S. Patent No. 5,537,541, teaches a method comprising the steps generating an indication that certain system conditions have occurred (Fig. 6; Col. 10, lines 1-25, CtrSelect routine 632); generating a timeout counter enable signal (CtrEnable routine 635). While Wibecan teaches that hardware logic and software may be modified by design (Col. 4, lines 48-58), Wibecan does not expressly teach the timeout enable signal is enabled by said indication.

Wibecan further teaches incrementing a plurality of counter circuits by individual ones of a plurality of incrementing signals (Fig. 3, incrementing counters 330 and 340 by signals on lines 311-315 and 321-325) and resetting said plurality of counter circuits by individual ones of a plurality of monitored signals (clear and set signals on lines 332 and 333), wherein said monitored signals are representative of conditions in said system (clear and set signals are indicative of system conditions); and comparing the outputs of said plurality of counter circuits, and when at least one of said plurality of counter circuits reaches a predetermined count (Col. 4, lines 28-39), latching the output of each of said plurality of counter circuits (Col. 10, lines 1-25, CtrReadAll routine 632; Fig. 8, step 880).

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Applicant's prior art teaches using a single timer or counter to measure or analyze a printers performance (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin and Dennis et al.), but does not teach using a plurality of timers.

The prior art of record does not teach individually or in combination, saving the counts of a plurality of timers when at least one of the plurality of timers has timed out, wherein clock circuitry generates a timeout enable signal that is itself enabled by an indication signal generated by first circuitry.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Pursuant to MPEP 606.01, the title has been changed to read:

**--TIMER/TIMEOUT EVALUATION SYSTEM THAT SAVES THE
COUNTS OF ALL TIMERS WHEN AT LEAST ONE TIMER HAS TIMED OUT--**

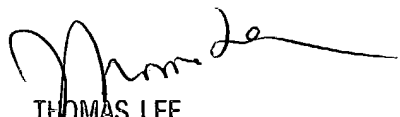
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Albert Wang whose telephone number is 703-305-5385.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 - 6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas C. Lee can be reached on 703-305-9717. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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August 4, 2004


THOMAS LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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